WASHINGTON
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Washington Agricultural Statistics Service
P.O. Box 609, Olympia, WA 98507
(360)902-1940 & FAX (360)902-2091

NEWS

For Immediate Release
May 12, 2004
Ray Garibay
State Director

Washington's 2004 Winter Wheat Production Down 8 Percent from 2003; United States Production Down 9 Percent

Winter wheat production in Washington in 2004 is expected to be down from 2003, both because of few acres being harvested and lower yields. Washington winter wheat producers are expected to harvest 1.70 million acres of winter wheat as of May 1, 2004 conditions. This is 100,000 acres less than in 2003. Yields are expected to average 63.0 bushels per acre, 2.0 bushels below last year. Total production would be 107.1 million bushels, 8 percent below last year but 3 percent above the 2002 crop. Only Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas are forecast to have production in 2004 above Washington.

"As of May 1, 2004, soil moisture levels are a major concern in Washington, where high winds and above normal temperatures have contributed to the dry conditions," said Ray Garibay, State Director for the Washington Agricultural Statistics Service in Olympia.

About 52 percent of the dryland crop was rated good or excellent on May 2 compared with 71 percent in 2003. Several producers State-wide reported winterkill on the recent survey, added Garibay.

Harvested acres in both Idaho and Oregon are forecast to be below 2003, but yields are above. In Oregon, 840,000 acres are expected to be harvested, compared with 940,000 acres last year. Yields are 2.0 bushels above last year, at 53.0 bushels per acre. Total production is expected to be 44.5 million bushels, 7 percent below 2003. In Idaho, at 680,000 harvested acres, this would be 40,000 acres fewer than last year. Yields are forecast at 81.0 bushels per acre, compared with 80.0 bushels for the 2003 crop. Total production would be 4 percent below 2003.

The combined Pacific Northwest winter wheat crop is estimated at 206.7 million bushels, 7 percent below 2003.

For the other major producing states, in Kansas, scattered April showers were beneficial, however, soil moisture supplies continue to be a major concern, especially in the northwest and west central districts. State-wide crop progress has been ahead of average. Heading progress in Oklahoma is running approximately one week ahead of average. Above normal April rainfall in Texas improved the crop condition significantly. In this region, Montana winter wheat growers are expected to combine 1.60 million acres and produce 52.8 million bushels. Colorado growers are expected to harvest 1.80 million acres, average 30.0 bushels per acre for a total production of 54.0 million bushels.

Nationally, winter wheat production is forecast at 1.55 billion bushels, down 9 percent from 2003. Based on May 1 conditions, the U. S. yield is forecast at 44.2 bushels per acre, 2.5 less than last year. Grain area totals 35.1 million acres, down 4 percent from last season. The portion of the winter wheat crop rated good to excellent on May 2, at 48 percent, was 7 percentage points lower than a year ago. The next wheat forecast will be released on June 11, 2004.

MAY 1 HAY STOCKS ABOVE LAST YEAR

The quantity of hay stored on Washington farms on May 1 totaled 470,000 tons. This level represents 13 percent of the 2003 production, compared with last year at 8.5 percent. This is a 65 percent increase from the amount of hay stored on May 1, 2003.

Idaho had 445,000 tons of hay on farm, 9 percent of their production, compared with 12 percent the previous year. This was down 30 percent from the amount of hay stored May 1, 2003. Oregon's stocks were 377,000 tons, 10 percent of their 2003 production, compared with 10 percent the previous year. This was 11 percent above the amount of hay stored May 1, 2003. The combined Pacific Northwest stocks totaled 1,292,000 tons, 11 percent of the production in 2003. Nationally, stocks totaled 25.9 million tons, 18 percent more than last year and 15 percent higher than 2002.

Winter Wheat: Area Harvested, Yield, and Production, 2003 and Forecasted May 1, 2004

State	Planted	Harvested		Yield		Production	
	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
		1,000 Acres		Bu/Acre		1,000 Bushels	
Washington	**1,800**	**1,800**	**1,700**	**65.0**	**63.0**	**117,000**	**107,100**
Idaho	720	720	680	80.0	81.0	57,600	55,080
Oregon	870	940	840	51.0	53.0	47,940	44,520
Pacific NW	**3,390**	**3,460**	**3,220**	**64.5**	**64.0**	**222,540**	**206,700**
Kansas	9,900	10,000	9,000	48.0	41.0	480,000	369,000
Oklahoma	6,400	4,600	4,300	39.0	36.0	179,400	154,800
Texas	6,100	3,450	3,600	28.0	33.0	96,600	118,800
Nebraska	1,950	1,820	1,850	46.0	39.0	83,720	72,150
Ohio	900	1,000	880	68.0	68.0	68,000	59,840
Colorado	2,300	2,200	1,800	35.0	30.0	77,000	54,000
Montana	1,850	1,720	1,600	37.0	33.0	63,640	52,800
10 States	32,790	28,250	26,250	45.0	41.5	1,270,900	1,088,090
U.S. Total	**43,372**	**36,541**	**35,082**	**46.7**	**44.2**	**1,707,069**	**1,550,395**

Wheat: Production by Class, United States, 2000-2004 1/

Year	Winter			Spring			Total
	Hard Red	Soft Red	White	Hard Red	White	Durum	
	1,000 Bushels						
2000	846,324	471,356	248,343	502,318	54,314	109,805	2,232,460
2001	766,795	399,670	195,014	475,515	36,493	83,556	1,957,043
2002	620,328	320,968	195,705	351,439	37,478	79,960	1,605,878
2003	1,062,889	379,196	264,984	499,926	32,894	96,637	2,336,526
2004	**910,071**	**398,739**	**241,585**	*	*	*	*

1/ Wheat class estimates are based on varietal acreage survey data. The previous end-of-season class percentages are used throughout the forecast season.

2/ Spring wheat production by class and total production will be published in "Crop Production" released July 12, 2004